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BRIDGE-BLEAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year

1960

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Chairman of the Council

COUNCILLOR G. H. MOUNT, J.P., T.D.

Public Health Committee 1960

Chairman

Councillor A. Taylor

Vice Chairman

Councillor J. F. Montgomery

Councillor A. R. Palmer

Councillor F. V. Lee

Councillor A. J. Ross


Councillor D. Mount

Councillor Rev. Chidgey

Ex Officio Members

Councillor G. H. Mount (Chairman of the Council)

Councillor W. Gilliam (Vice-Chairman of the Council)



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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. M. S. Harvey, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	..	..	..	..	J. W. A. Brewster
Additional Public Health Inspector	..	..	..	G. L. Almond	
Transport Officer..	..	..	..	..	L. Bond
Rodent Operator	A. Vinten	
Shorthand Typist	Miss E. Dowson	
Clerk	Mrs. M. Price	

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<u>Clerk of the Council</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>	<u>Engineer and Surveyor</u>
I. F. SOILLEUX, Esq.	B. G. S. FASTE, Esq.	P. J. THACKRAY, Esq.

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July, 1961.

Mr. Cheirman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my third annual report on the sanitary conditions of the district and the work carried out by the Department in 1960.

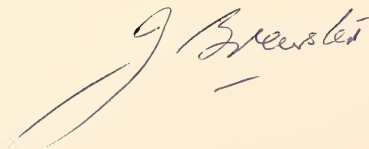
Once again I must express regret at the lateness of this report and as the majority of events have been displaced from our minds by the work in hand at the present day, it is my intention to present a shorter report than usual.

The year's work can probably be described in one word - housing - embracing Improvement Grants, Slum Clearance Survey, General Housing Complaints, and Caravans. The mammoth amount of work in this field has left very little time for that important subject - Food Hygiene, let alone the routine work in connection with Factories, Shops and Agricultural Units.

I have been very fortunate in retaining the same Public Health Team who have assisted in the year's work. In addition to thanking them for their support and assistance, I would like also to include the members and officers of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Brewster', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

H O U S I N G

The early months of 1960 saw the completion of the first Slum Clearance Programme several months earlier than was anticipated. There are, of course, a number of families to be rehoused, twenty-four in all, the majority of whom are awaiting completion of the new development at Chatham, Sturry and Blean. The problem of the unsuitable family is still with us, and as the rising cost of living forces up the Council House rents, many tenants in the cheap and controlled private lettings are unwilling to move.

Following a circular from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a new Housing Survey commenced in March. I thought this would be a good opportunity not only to ascertain how many more properties should be classified as unfit, but to see how many dwellings in the district were without modern amenities. Housing inspection sheets were prepared for every house in the area with the intention of a house to house inspection, excluding modern development and property with a high rateable value which I assume rightly or wrongly have W.C.'s, baths and hot water supplies, etc. The properties were to be classified under five headings:-

Category 1 - Fit houses.

Category 2 - Houses requiring minor repair.

Category 3 - Houses requiring major repair and/or falling below the Housing Act standard regarding amenities.

Category 4 - Unfit houses under the Housing Act standard which are structurally sound and could be rendered fit at an unreasonable expense.

Category 5 - Unfit houses under the Housing Act standard which are suitable only for demolition or closing.

By the end of the year, over half of the Parishes had been surveyed. It became obvious, however, that the Survey could not be completed by the end of April, 1961 (the latest date given by the Ministry), and so attention was directed to the obviously unfit houses for the remainder of the area. (N.B. Details of unfit houses have since been presented to the Council.)

Under the Improvement Grant Scheme, there was a rapid rise in the number of applications approved. The number of 88 was an increase of nearly 40 as compared with last year, the amount of grants totalling over £20,000. Owner/occupied property accounted for over half of this figure. The number of Standard Grants for the year did not reach double figures, but as I mentioned in my report for 1959, this grant is more suited for the urban areas.

FOOD AND DRUGS

For the second year running it is with regret that I have to report that this branch of our work has had to be put on one side. However, milk sampling has been maintained and 26 samples were taken during the year (19 Biological and 7 Methylene Blue). Three of these samples were unsatisfactory and were the result of a case of Brucella Abortus at a farm in Sturry supplying milk to a Canterbury café. The supply was immediately pasteurised until cleared.

Two complaints of foreign bodies found in foodstuffs were received. On the first complaint concerning a nail in a cake, a successful prosecution was taken. In the other case concerning string in bread, a warning letter was sent to the Baker.

WATER SUPPLIES

With such a high proportion of properties connected to mains supply there is very little to report in the way of progress. However, a scheme to provide water to five properties in the Buckwell area of Sturry parish was approved. On completion of the Housing Survey I hope to be in a position to give an accurate report on the number of properties without a satisfactory piped supply.

Regular sampling has continued and thirty-six bacteriological samples were taken. Of these, twelve were suspect, affecting nine properties. The occupants were advised to boil their drinking water pending further action, which has taken several forms, i.e. service of Informal Notice to connect to mains, adjustment of existing chlorination plant, and listing of property as unfit in survey.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Two hundred and twenty-five visits were made during the year to give advice on drainage matters, and to take measures to prevent or abate nuisances.

By the end of the year, the Blean and Sturry schemes as well as the smaller scheme at Hollow Street, Chislet were well under way. It was a welcome relief not having to cope with endless complaints from Blean residents, the majority of which were completely justified.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Cesspool Emptying

It will come as no surprise to read that the number of loads of sewage removed during the year has increased from 10,600 to 11,200. Some relief was given by the first connections at Blean but these were offset by new development, and it has been very difficult to meet the demand on the service. The position was aggravated by the very wet winter which brought about flooding and raised water tables.

Pail Emptying

This is one service which is gradually being reduced, although there will always be cottage property relying on this form of sanitation. When the large scale main drainage schemes have been completed, it might be thought worthwhile to secure pail closet conversion with drainage to cesspools under the Public Health Act, 1936. This scheme might be more attractive to owners who do not want the additional expense of constructing bathrooms and providing hot water facilities.

Refuse Collection

We continue to hold our own with the increased demand for this service. At the end of the year consideration was being given to a change in refuse disposal methods, thereby releasing a refuse machine and crew for the task of dealing with the increasing demand. Delivery of a new Karrier refuse machine was taken during the year.

Disposal

I reported last year on the increase in the disposal staff. It became evident that we were not obtaining satisfactory results, partly due perhaps to the fact that it is impossible to give complete supervision. I have for some time been considering mechanised tip control and a demonstration of equipment at the Conference of Public Health Inspectors convinced me that one machine could replace several men as long as it could be moved from tip to tip with ease. As members know, such a machine is now in operation.

General

The members of the Council agreed to improve the general working conditions of the members of the Scavenging Staff, and in addition to providing some hand-washing facilities on the vehicles, extensive alterations are being made at the garage to provide a staff room and shower.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

General (Contd.)

Following agreement between the employers and staff sides, there was a reduction of two hours in the working week as well as an increased holiday entitlement to long service employees, both of which have had an effect on output.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The new caravan Act (Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960) came into force in August. The new Act knits together the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Acts and Public Health Act, 1936 in relation to Caravans, and one of its objects is to do away with the annual licences. The success of this depends to a large extent on the planning conditions attached to licences. Already there has been criticism from the Caravan Club that only short term permissions have been granted in some areas which does not encourage site owners to carry out the necessary works to provide good sites.

With the introduction of this legislation there was an influx of applications at the end of the year. I must confess the procedure for obtaining a licence in some cases was very complex, especially to the holders of earlier licences and planning permission. Even at the date of writing this report, a site in Blean has not yet been licensed because of a pending appeal.

HOP PICKERS CAMPS

It was necessary to report to the Public Health Committee on the unsatisfactory conditions at three camps. In all cases the Clerk was instructed to write to the camp owners. It is to be hoped that conditions will improve in 1961.

MISCELLANEOUS

Work in connection with the undermentioned duties is carried out from day to day. For the year under review there is little of interest on which to report:-

- Rodent and Pest Control
- Clean Air Act
- Factories and Workplaces
- Shops Act
- Infectious Diseases and Disinfection
- Diseases of Animals (Waste Food) Order
- Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act
- Litter Act
- Noise Abatement Act

A P P E N D I X
S T A T I S T I C S
H O U S I N G

Inspections and Action taken, etc.

A. Housing Statistics

New houses erected by the Council	44
New houses under construction by the Council.. .. .	78
New houses erected by Private Enterprise	119
Houses demolished under Housing Acts	6
Houses demolished by other persons.. .. .	NIL
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation under Housing Acts	16
Houses otherwise closed for human habitation by other persons	NIL
Conversions of properties into dwellings under Housing Act	3
Conversions of properties into dwellings by other persons	1
Conversions of properties in progress under Housing Act	NIL
Conversions of properties in progress by other persons.. .. .	NIL

B. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year

1. (a) Number inspected under Housing Acts	126
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	741
(c) Number of miscellaneous Housing Visits	144
2. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 16)	13
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be unfit for human habitation (Section 9)	NIL
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority with a view to:-	
(a) Serving of notices requiring the execution of works (Section 9)	NIL
(b) The making of Demolition or Closing Orders (Section 16)	13
5. (a) Number inspected under Public Health Act	30
(b) Number of inspections made for that purpose	229
6. Number of informal notices served	38
7. Number of formal notices served.. .. .	5
8. Number of cases of overcrowding known to the Local Authority at 31st December, 1959	2
9. Number of such cases identified during 1960	1
10. Number of cases of overcrowding at 31st December, 1960	1

HOUSING (Contd.)

Rent Act - Certificates Granted and Cancelled

1 Application was made for a Certificate

FOOD AND DRUGS

Number of visits - 88

Milk and Dairies

No. of bacteriological samples taken - 19
(including 6 from St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham)
No. of unsatisfactory samples - 3
No. of statutory samples taken - 7
(including 6 from St. Augustine's Hospital, Chartham)
No. of unsatisfactory samples - Nil
No. of Registered Distributors - 20

Ice Cream

Details of sampling - Nil.

Food Inspection

Amounts of food condemned during year:-

630 lbs. Fish
6 lbs. Meat

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Visits and Action

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	2	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	57	29	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	-	-	-
	62	33	-	-

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES (Contd.)

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspect.	By H.M. Inspect.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	-

R O D E N T C O N T R O L

Summary of Visits and Treatments

	Private	Local Authority	Farm	Business	Total
Inspections	280	99	108	58	545
Treatments	176	55	8	29	268

S U M M A R Y O F M I S C E L L A N E O U S V I S I T S

Drainage	225
Moveable Dwellings	59
Hopper Huts	36
Refuse Collection and Disposal	153
Miscellaneous sanitary visits.. .. .	168

W A T E R S U P P L Y

Number of Visits - 59

Canterbury Water Co.

Blean
Chartham
Chislet
Fordwich
Hackington
Harbledown
Hoath
Lower Hardres
Sturry
Thanington Without
Westbere

Mid Kent Water Co.

Barham
Kingston
Petham
Upper Hardres
Waltham

Thanet Water Board

Adisham
Bekesbourne
Bridge
Bishopsbourne
Ickham
Littlebourne
Patricxbourne
Wickhambreaux
Womenswold

P U B L I C C L E A N S I N G A N D S A L V A G E E T C .

Particulars of Vehicles

Veh. No.	Index No.	Registered	Make	Duties
1. (Diesel)	HKE 604	1945	Dennis	Cesspool
2. (Diesel)	HKT 301	1947	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
3. (Diesel)	JKL 224	1947	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
4. (Diesel)	HJK 374	1945	Dennis	Cesspool
5. (Petrol)	FKK 759	1939	Dennis	Cesspool
6. (Diesel)	LKE 684	1948	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
7. (Diesel)	LKK 917	1949	Dennis	Cesspool W/N.S.
8. (Diesel)	UFN 802	1960	Karrier	Refuse
9. (Diesel)	SFN 286	1959	Bedford	Refuse
10. (Diesel)	NKN 457	1951	Dennis	Refuse
11. (Diesel)	SKN 127	1954	Dennis	Refuse
12.	-	-	-	-
13.	UJG 538	1960	Morris Van	Garage/Surveyors
14.	GJG 927	1953	Ford Van	Engineer & Surveyors
15.	LJG 468	1956	Austin Van	Finance
16.	UFN 922	1960	Austin Van	Engineer & Surveyors
17.	OJG 424	1958	Austin Van	Rodent Control
18.	LJG 469	1956	Austin Van	Engineer & Surveyors
19.	HFN 414	1953	Ford Van	Engineer & Surveyors

